



State of Utah

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NEWS RELEASE
Friday, Dec. 13, 2013

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DEQ's Lawyer Named "Attorney of the Year"

SALT LAKE CITY – Christian Stephens, an assistant attorney general who represents the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, is the "Attorney of the Year," an award given among his peers at the Utah Attorney General's Office.

Stephens is recognized for his "dedication" and working "tirelessly" this year in response to countless legal challenges brought against the Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ) – challenges that include air quality permits issued to Tesoro Refinery, Emery Refinery, and Sevier Power Company, all of which are under appeal.

"It's an honor to be recognized by my fellow attorneys," Stephens said. "I enjoy working with DEQ's dedicated staff that provides much needed support to tackle these legal issues."

Craig Anderson, chief of the AG's Environmental Division nominated Stephens—with the support by several other attorneys in the Division – for his dedication to the job, demonstrated by working while on vacation, and handling multiple appeals at once.

"Christian's dedication is best exemplified by the release of a decision in the Tenth Circuit, impacting issues in a then-pending appeal. The decision was released while Chris was out of town on scheduled annual leave. Chris spent his vacation participating in conference calls, directing legal research and editing a draft brief due to be filed within days after his return. After performing legal triage on the first brief, Chris jumped in on a second brief on appeal due within weeks of the first brief."

The two appeal cases involved the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) partial approval and disapproval of Utah's air plan for regional haze, and Tesoro Refinery.

Stephen joined the AG's Office in 2001, after completing a law degree at Willamette University in 2000. He is a 1997 graduate of Brigham Young University and also earned an MBA at the University of Utah.

He lives with his wife, Jennie, and their two children in Centerville.

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About DEQ

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) mission is to safeguard public health and quality of life by protecting and enhancing the environment. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah's air, land and water. For more information, visit www.deq.utah.gov, follow DEQ on Facebook ([newseq](#)) and Twitter ([@UTDEQ](#)), or call 1-800-458-0145.
